Morse, that neat, sleek little man, undoubtedly would have ed down. There was no place plained, with sly insolence.

Where ye been all this time? son Carter, were caught off the plained, with sly insolence.

Couldn't even write a line, like entrance to Rock Hall harbor any decent folks would enter they had been out to set dispatched a telegram east like it. It was good to be back "Been missin' 'em pretty regunote han be actually like it. It was good to be back "Been missin' 'em pretty regunote had been out to set one." much sooner than he actually again, to slip in this way and did, and from that moment surprise Matt. Good old Matt. "Better not look in the wrong er was much for writing, Joey; but the patrol boat, commanded the Circle V ranch had been home for twenty years and Matt Blair something more than a

But the coin had spun, not once in that far-off city but! again on the clanking local two hours away from Saunders, and Lee not only got off three stations ahead of his destination. but immediately proceeded to make new and quite different arrangements for moving on. The town's one hotel received him, and he changed from neat blue serge to disreputable old trousers and a flannel shirt and went out again, and down the sunbaked street. A horse was located and bargained for, with an eye for points. A second-hand saddle followed: miner purchases were made here and

When the job was finished the stranger in town clothes had once more a rancher's girl, after brands don't stay on the Circle own hand! disappeared, and in his place the years of travel and fashion- V." was a brown young man in a big able schools that an indulgent Black eyes and greenish ones "I don't get it at all. Matt was-

his ranging eye had caught ye. Lee? Well, I'll take yore Long before the train that he sight of a wide ugly slash on the word for it this time. So long; had left was whistling for Saun-timbered slope. That was odd. I've got work to do."

ders Station, Lee Hollister was Timber was too valuable to be He wheeled with a savage

wasted. Matt never cut that way, rake of spurs and was off. He rode easily, with the grace That strip was wastefully cut, Lee looked after him specuof long custom, picking up famil with high stumps ike the snap latively. Slanty must have been iar landmarks and thinking that ped-off masts of a wrecked ship, up to something, or he would the old sandy waste looked good Lee's sharpened glance flicked not have given ground so easily. after nearly two years of wan- toward the valley again. Down Too easily. It wouldn't hurt to dering, even to the clumps of there he had seen a small bunch keep an eye on Slanty, but for last year's tumbleweed, wind of cattle, perhaps fifty or sixty, the present Lee had more ur-

bunched in the bottom of a That also was unusual. The Cir- gent business in hand. He turncle V cattle always ranged the ed and rode toward the narrow By late afternoon he had left hills at this time of the year. | cleft which led into that fertile the high desert for the twilight Lee wheeled his horse abrupt- paradise that wandering Navaof a narrow canyon whose 1ag- ly. retraced his way for a short jos, long since. had named the ged walls loomed six hundred distance and started zigzagging Valley of the Sun. feet above the canyon floor. He downward.

camped there for the night. The slope dropped abruptly, tance, turned in the saddle and In the morning he started on with sharp turns and jutting saw him disappear. again, up a thread of trail that angles, and talus that slid be- "Think yo're the big boss hugged the canyon wall, out neath his horse's feet. Over to around here, don't ye?" he mutagain on an open flat, and over the right a black hole yawned. tered sourly. "Matt Blair's lita ridge where the cedar and pin- That was the mouth of the old the pet!"

ion gave way to slim pine. Bonanza mine, long since aban- Lee rode on slowly. Several The farside of the ridge slant- doned, where one lucky gold things were puzzling him, the ed down to a tiny mountain pocket had given Matt Blair wasteful timber slash, the little meadow. There was water there, and his partner their first start evidences of mismanagement, and he dismounted, eased the and had brought hordes of other cinches to rest his horse and set men to stake claims. about to appease a healthy hun- That hillside had echoed once ger. Moving easily and lightly, to the soud of voices, the blows he merged into his surroundings of picks and the sullen boom of as naturally as the tall straight blasting, as men burrowed fever-

needle carpet beneath. He was er found again. tall and straight himself, a full Matt owned it all now, not so six feet of smoothly coordinated much for its value-it wouldn't muscle, with a keenly modeled have brought twenty cents an profile, black eyes that saw acre-but because it was a relic much and betrayed little, and a of the old days.

lean young face that sun and The old Bonanza was behind wind had finished in a warm Lee, the last steep turn of the trail brought him into a small He was not in the least con- gorge. Lee suddenly gave a cerned that there were people, scarcely audible grunt. plenty of people, who would A man was coming toward

think him a lunatic to waste him, riding close to the fringe two days and part of a railroad of cedar, as if keeping out of . ticket in order to take the long- view. He was a big. loosely built est and roughest way home. man, with a long, wolfish face But he had chosen to arrive and bulky shoulders. His stare from the opposite direction and of recognition carried a swift on horseback. It was the way surprise and a flare of someby which he had first come, a thing else, quickly hidden. Then silent, black-headed little savage he rode forward with a grip

with weary body and suspicious which showed discolored teeth. for which Lee had planned, but a lovely, delicately modeled If Congress passed this legiseyes, twenty years before. Twen- "Hello, Lee. You back?" somehow he hesitated. Lee grin- creature, Virginia Blair, Matt's lation, it would limit any action The flip of a coin decided it. ty years almost to the day. Matt "Looks like it. Hello, Slanty." ned and swung his horse to the precious jewel, for whom noth which could be taken by State

tropical city half a world away, over the same trails.

had not felt that tug of homesickness for wind-swept plains ing steadily downward, not in a hor of sage span of sage and the tang of sage, spun a direct grade, but in a rolling oblique in his methods as in his where a slim finger of the creek that's what mot have a scould be learned, small silver product of the succession of low ridges. He United States mint and started for home four months before he and drew in.

Silver product of the succession of low ridges. He was on he way. And that's what met her."

About a third of the way down a cabin stocd, its logs weathered again. Never had Lee seen the for the unqualified reduction in was expected, a number of quite There it lay, a wide valley long, and usually shifted for grey by many seasons. In a bare old man so broken.

instead of bolting out of the west they were little more than became a sneer. "I'm hirin' othtrain three stations down the ragged hills, but on the east and er folks to work for me. Want other matters northeast timbered heights a job?"

thin, shrill note; the old man scrambled and slid and ran. med through ice last Friday to employers and give them more

"Jest as touchy as ever, ain't ye, Lee?"

exciting things might never floor deep in grass, where graz- himself in a cabin back in the strip beyond it a little old man "Tell me how it happened." Even then, if he had continued seasons. Mountains rimmed it Lee's eyes dwelt on him with stooping posture. was just straightening from a straight on to Saunders by the noon local, as any reasoning adult might be expected to do, west they were little more than the ravine was answered by a straight on to Saunders by the around, taking the brunt of winds impersonal regard.

"Eee seyes dwelt on him with an impersonal regard.

"Riding for the Circle V?"

"Riding for the Circle V?"

"Not for that outfit." The grin the ravine was answered by a support of the ravine was a supp

Word of his arrival, for insouthwestern end the ranch not the slightest interest in transfer squared wag!" Joey's voice squeaked The boats, the Four Sisters, stance, would surely have trickled on ahead of him. Gideon
Morse, that neat sleek little straggling.

Southwestern end the ranch not the slightest interest in life. Slanty's rise in life. Slanty's leyes took on malevolence.

Where we been all this time?

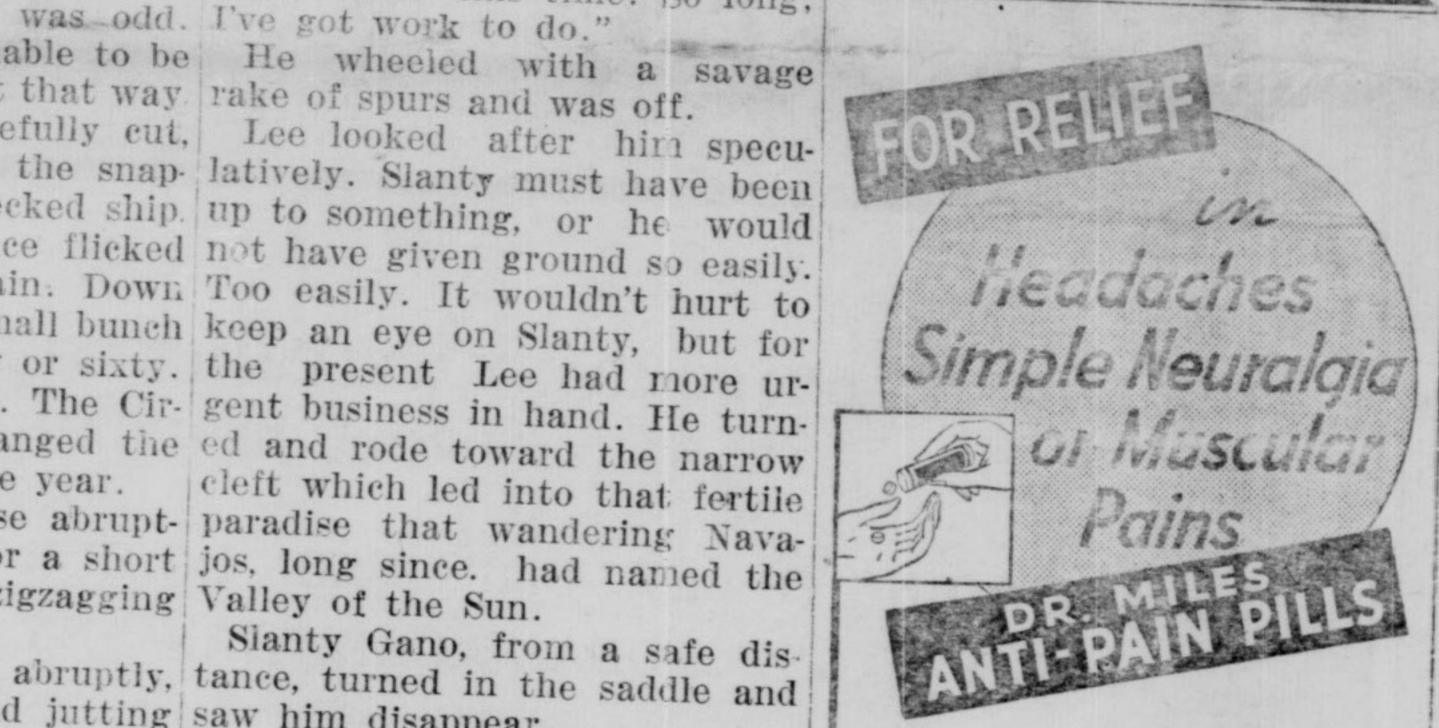
> you know that. Just got here. I by Capt. Frank Agers, was unhaven't even seen Matt yet." able to reach the men Thursday Joey flinched as though some night. one had dealt him a solid blow. Two men were with Gagalski "I forgot." He swallowed vis- and three with Carter. None suf-

ibly. "Ye ain't heard - about fered ill effects. things here." "Heard what? What's the mat- SEES LARGE SURPLUS Joey gulped again. His voice was a dry husk of sound. "Matt-Matt's gone."

| don't mean that Matt is -" He couldn't quite finish it Jaey nodded heavily. "Yes. He's dead. He shot hisself. That's the wust part of it, Lee. They found him in his office, all slumped down in his chair, with his gun on the floor beside him."

Lee straightened slowly. The impact of the blow had rocked him. Matt Blair, that big, vital, huge-hearted man, his earliest and best friend, dead, and by his

met and measured each other. n't that kind." any wondering cowboy from the The warmth vanished in a The greenish ones wavered. Joey nodded. Speech for the back ranges, or a young rancher puzzled frown. Over on the left "Jest as touchy as ever, ain't moment was beyond him.



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the presence of Slanty Gano on Lee dropped the reins over the tion now before Congress. Circle V land, slinking through buckskin's head and left him to One measure, the McCormack better. that fringe of cedar as though stand there and crop at young bill, would liberalize the jobless Welfare and unemployment employment coverage to include he did not wish to be seen. grass. They turned and went up systems in all States so that the authorities have recommended all persons facing the risk of un-Three years ago Matt had run the slope to Joey's cabin. Neith- unemployed would receive more that Congress appoint a special employment. Under the present

clearer view, sprawling comfort- Two of them were snapshots of would reduce the unexpended en. ably on its commanding knoll. Lee, both of them on horseback; surpluses in State unemploy. The Social Security Board, in cumulated. Just ahead was the big moment the others were all of one girl, ment funds. If Lee Hollister, listening to Blair had brought him. Now he The reply was civil, and no right. Five minutes later the ing was too good nor any sacri- legislatures, Mr. Davis explaintemple bells on the edge of a was coming back the same way, more.

now being paid by employers. (To Be Continued)

would at least have taken a looked down, cut with deep cannotably different course.

They met almost in front of rescue seven Rock Hall fishermen marooned overnight on two men marooned o

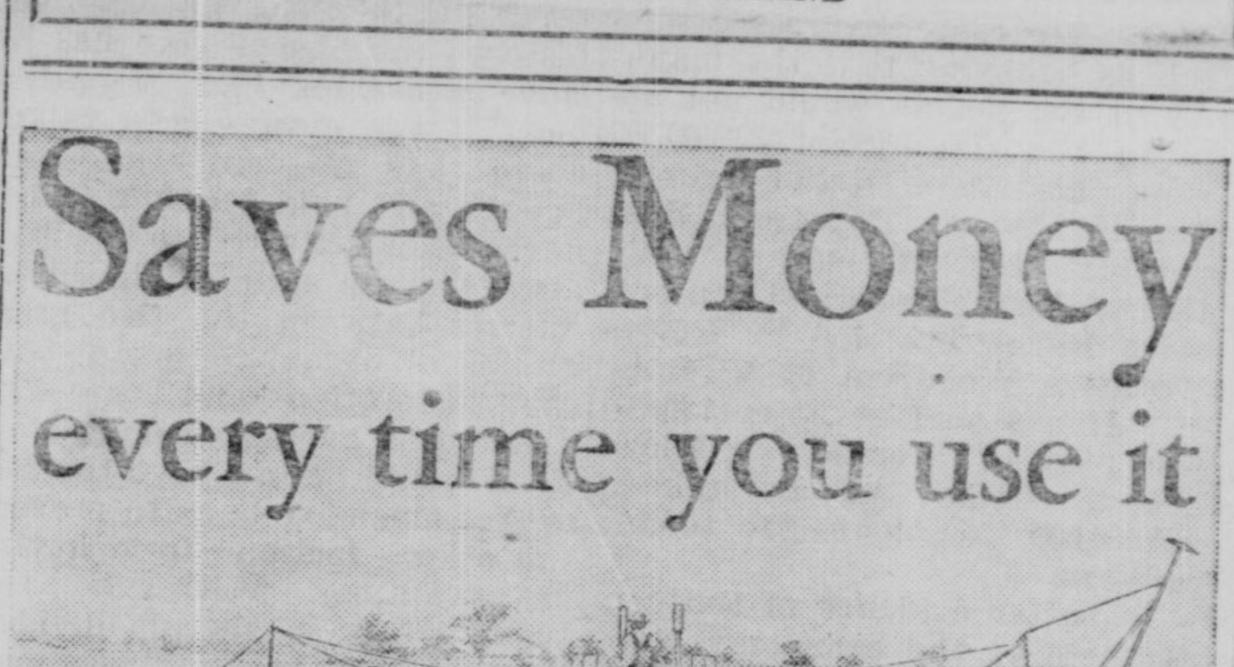
IN JOBLESS FUND Continued from page one sociates, recommended that the "Gone! Look here. Joey, you Legislative Council defer action pending the outcome of legisla-

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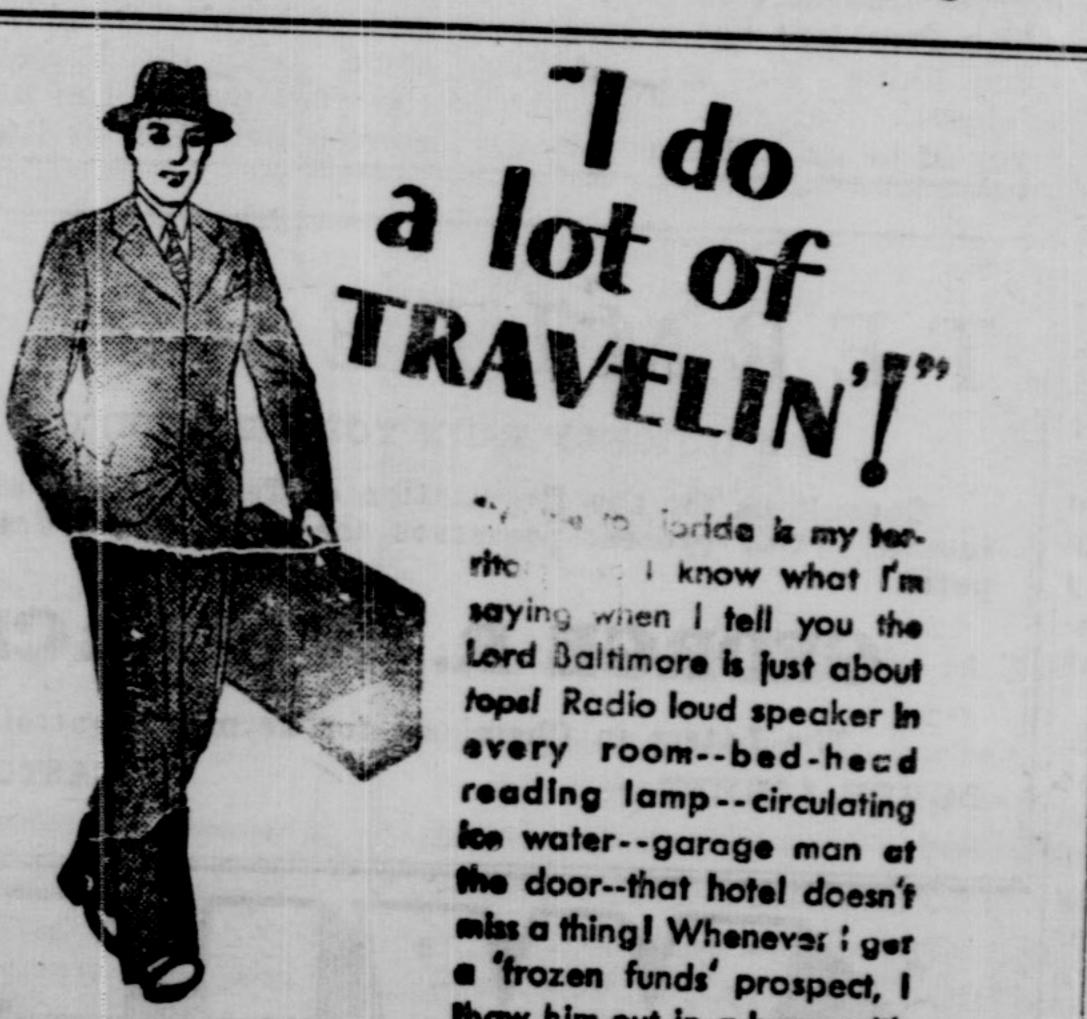


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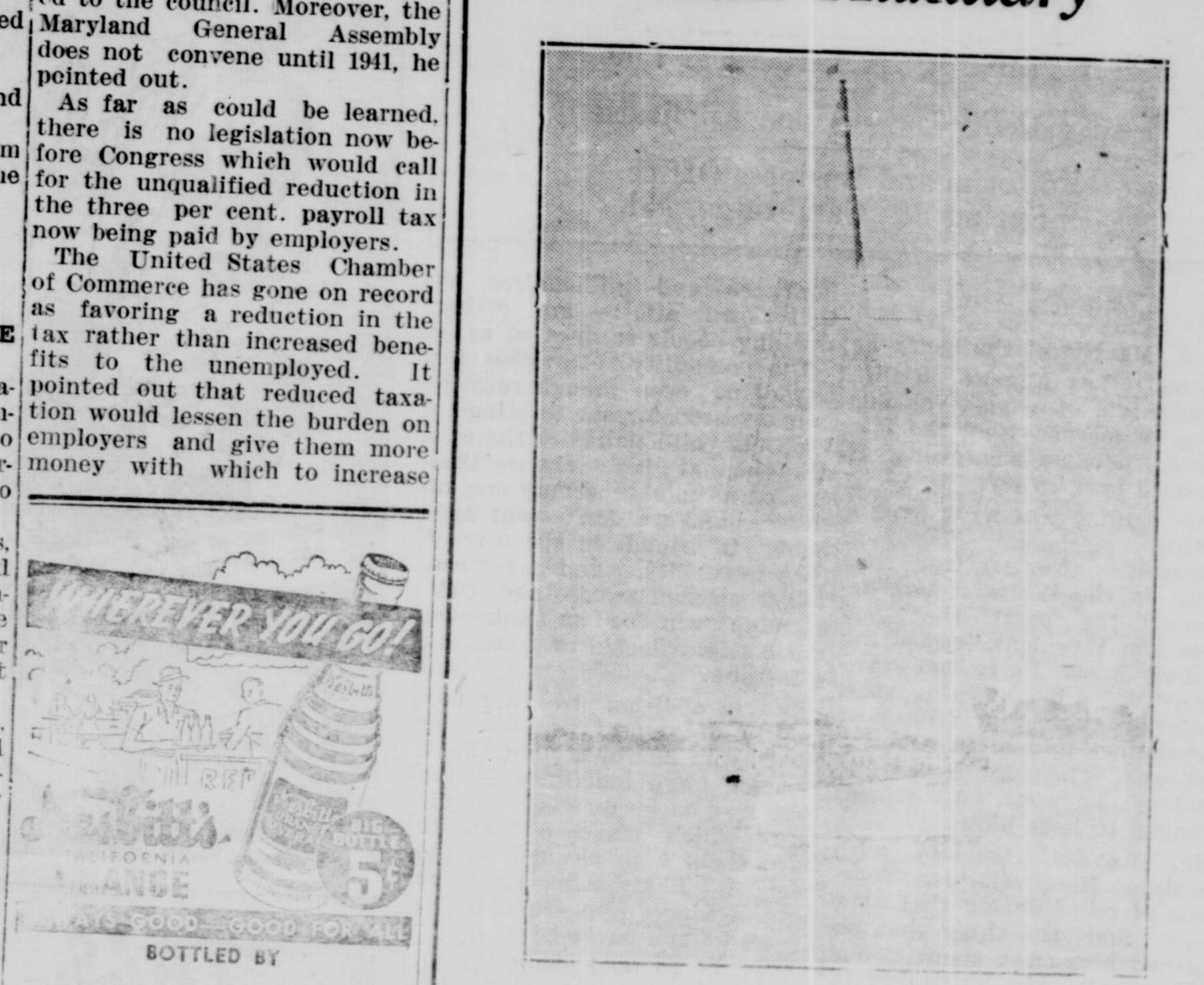


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their personnel as business got its annual report, recommend-

funds and over a longer period committee to study the entire system, only certain classes of ing a horse, and Slanty had giv- Inside the cabin were six or of time. Also, the jobless would unemployment situation in the workers are covered by the act. en it a wide berth ever since. eight photographs ranged on a receive their funds quicker than nation and make a report before The board also advocated a liber The ranch house came into shelf which served as a mantel. they do now. Such a measure any Congressional action is takwhere surplus funds have ac-



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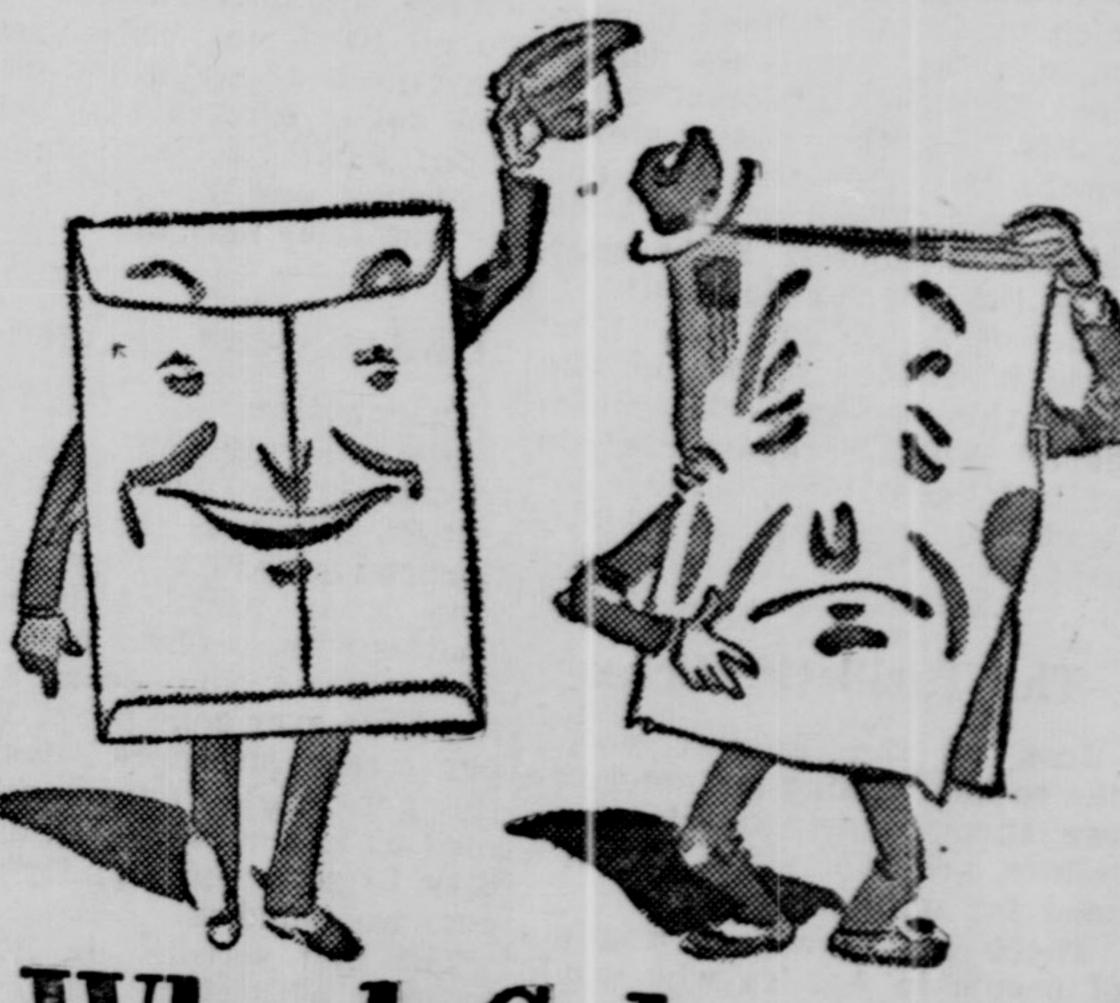
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